The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to improve their format. None of these amendments is believed to involve any new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments be entered, that the application as so amended receive an examination on the merits, and that the claims as now presented receive an early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

Not entered

3. (Amended) The polymer according to Claim 1 [or 2],

wherein the silanol group is represented by the general formula (1):

$-[Si(R^1)_{2-b}(OH)_bO]_m-Si(R^2_{3-a}(OH)_a$ (1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents an alkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms or an aralkyl group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms or a triorganosiloxy group represented by $(R')_3SiO-$, in which R' is a monovalent hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and the three R' groups may be the same or different; when there are two or more R^1 or R^2 groups, they may be the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, b represents 0, 1 or 2, and m is an integer of 0 to 19, provided that the relation $a + mb \geq 1$ should be satisfied.

5. (Amended) The polymer according to [any of Claims 1 to 4] Claim 1 which has a ratio (Mw/Mn) of weight average molecular weight (Mw) to number average molecular weight (Mn) of less than 1.8 as determined by gel permeation chromatography.

6. (Amended) The polymer according to [any of Claims 1 to 5] Claim 1,

wherein the main chain is obtained by living radical polymerization.

10. (Amended) The polymer according to [any of Claims 1 to 9] Claim 1

which is obtainable by carrying out the hydrosilylation reaction of a vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group at one or more one termini thereof with a silicon compound having both a silicon atom-bound hydrolyzable group and a hydrosilyl group

and then converting said hydrolyzable group to a silanol group by hydrolysis.

12. (Amended) A curable composition

which comprises a vinyl polymer having a silanol group at one or more termini thereof according to [any of Claims 1 to 11] Claim 1.

16. (Amended) The curable composition according to [any of Claims 12 to 15] Claim 12

which comprises a polymer,

said polymer having a silicon atom-bound hydrolyzable group(s) and no silanol group.

21. (Amended) The method of producing according to Claim 19 [or 20],

wherein the silanol group of the vinyl polymer (I) is represented by the general formula (1):

$$-[Si(R^1)_{2-b}(OH)_bO]_m-Si(R^2_{3-a}(OH)_a \qquad (1)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents an alkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms or an aralkyl group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms or a triorganosiloxy group represented by $(R')_3SiO-$, in which R' is a monovalent hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and the three R' groups may be the same or different; when there are two or more R^1 or R^2 groups, they may be the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, b represents 0, 1 or 2, and m is an integer of 0 to 19, provided that the relation $a + mb \geq 1$ should be satisfied.

23. (Amended) The method of producing according to [any of Claims 19 to 22] Claim 19,

wherein the vinyl polymer (I) has a ratio (Mw/Mn) of weight average molecular weight (Mw) to a number average molecular weight (Mn) of less than 1.8 as determined by gel permeation chromatography.

24. (Amended) The method of producing according to [any of Claims 19 to 23] Claim 19,

wherein the vinyl polymer (I) has a main chain obtained by living radical polymerization.

28. (Amended) The method of producing according to [any of Claims 19 to 27] Claim 19,

wherein the vinyl polymer (I) is obtainable by carrying out the hydrosilylation reaction of a vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group at one or more one termini thereof with a silicon compound having both a silicon atom-bound hydrolyzable group and a hydrosilyl group

and then converting said hydrolyzable group to a silanol group by hydrolysis.

30. (Amended) The method of producing according to [any of Claims 19 to 29] Claim 19,

wherein the silicon compound having two or more silicon atom-bound hydrolyzable groups is represented by the general formula (2):

$Z\text{-}[Si\ (R^3)_{2-b}(Y')_bO]_m\text{-}Si\ (R^4)_{3-a}(Y')_a$ (2)

wherein R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and each represents an alkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms or a triorganosiloxy group represented by $(R')_3SiO$-, in which R' is a monovalent hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and the three R' groups may be the same or different and, when there are two or more R^3 or R^4 groups, they may be the same or different, Y' represents a hydrolyzable group other than a hydroxyl group, Z represents an alkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms, a triorganosiloxy group represented by $(R')_3SiO$-, in which R' is as defined above, or a hydrolyzable group other than a hydroxyl group, a represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, b represents 0, 1 or 2 and m is an integer of 0 to 19 provided that when Z is a hydrolyzable group, the relation $a + mb \geq 1$ should be satisfied and, when Z is other than a hydrolyzable group, the relation $a + mb \geq 2$ should be satisfied.

32. (Amended) The method of producing according to Claim 30 [or 31], wherein, in general formula (2), $m = 0$.

33. (Amended) A vinyl polymer having a hydrolyzable silyl group at one or more termini thereof and obtainable by the method of producing according to [any of Claims 19 to 32] Claim 19.

37. (Amended) The method of producing according to Claim 35 [or 36],

wherein, the vinyl polymer (I) has a main chain obtained by polymerizing at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of (meth) acrylic monomers, acrylonitrile monomers, aromatic vinyl monomers, fluorine-containing vinyl monomers and silicon-containing vinyl monomers.

38. (Amended) The method of producing according to [any of Claims 35 to 37] Claim 35,

wherein the silanol group of the vinyl polymer (I) is represented by the general formula (1):

$$-[Si(R^1)_{2-b}(OH)_bO]_m-Si(R^2_{3-a}(OH)_a \qquad (1)$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents an alkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an aryl group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms or an aralkyl group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms or a triorganosiloxy group represented by $(R')_3SiO-$, in which R' is a monovalent hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and the three R' groups may be the same or different; when there are two or more R^1 or R^2 groups, they may be the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, b represents 0, 1 or 2, and m is an integer of 0 to 19, provided that the relation $a + mb \geq 1$ should be satisfied.

40. (Amended) The method of producing according to [any of Claims 35 to 39] Claim 35,

wherein the vinyl polymer (I) has a main chain obtained by living radical polymerization.

44. (Amended) The method of producing according to [any of Claims 35 to 43] Claim 35,

wherein the vinyl polymer (I) is obtainable by carrying out the hydrosilylation reaction of a vinyl polymer having an alkenyl group at one or more one termini thereof with a silicon compound having both a silicon atom-bound hydrolyzable group and a hydrosilyl group

and then converting said hydrolyzable group to a silanol group by hydrolysis.

46. (Amended) A vinyl polymer having an acrylic functional group at one or more termini thereof and obtainable by the method of producing according to [any of Claims 35 to 45] Claim 35.

48. (Amended) A curable composition

which comprises the vinyl polymer having an acrylic functional group at one or more termini thereof according to Claim 46 [or 47].

53. (Amended) The curable composition according to [any of Claims 48 to 52] Claim 48

which comprises a radical-polymerizable group-containing monomer and/or oligomer.

54. (Amended) The curable composition according to [any of Claims 48 to 52] Claim 48

which comprises an anion-polymerizable group-containing monomer and/or oligomer.

55. (Amended) The curable composition according to Claim 53 [or 54],

wherein the radical- or anion-polymerizable group is an acrylic functional group.